

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of ANDERSON ET AL.)
) Art Unit: 1732
)
Serial Number N/A) Examiner: Nguyen
)
Filed Herewith) Atty Docket: AND002-010D1

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CREATING A SUBSTANTIAL
UNIFORM TEMPERATURE ACROSS A PLASTIC SHEET
FOR DELIVERY TO AN APPLIANCE LINER THERMOFORMING
DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified new U.S. patent application,
kindly amend the application in accordance with the following particulars:

IN THE TITLE:

Kindly replace the title presented on lines 1-4 of Page 1 with the following:

--METHOD FOR CREATING A SUBSTANTIALLY UNIFORM
TEMPERATURE ACROSS A PLASTIC SHEET FOR DELIVERY TO AN
APPLIANCE LINER THERMOFORMING DEVICE--

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Inventor: Anderson et al.

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following new paragraph:

--This application represents a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/305,305 filed May 5, 1999, pending--.

Kindly replace the paragraph presented on page 10, lines 12-24 with the following substitute paragraph:

--It is generally desirable in accordance with the present invention to make pre-heating unit 12 rather compact. In accordance with the preferred form of the invention, it is desired to have pre-heating unit 12 sized to simultaneously heat in a range of three to five (3-5) sheets in any given time. In addition, it is desirable to establish a reasonable heating time which, in the preferred embodiment, is approximately 40 seconds. With these established parameters and desired operation characteristics in mind for the reduced scale testing, a flow of heated air at approximately 140°F was impinged upon the upper and lower surfaces of the sheet of approximately one square foot at a mass flow rate of 610 CFM (cubic feet per minute). Furthermore, through this testing, it was determined that a static pressure range of approximately 0.7-0.9 in. H₂O within enclosure 50 is practical and economical for the heating of the sheets.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-15 in their entirety, without prejudice or disclaimer.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Inventor: Anderson et al.

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REMARKS

The above changes have been made without the introduction of any new matter to better present a title corresponding to the claimed subject matter in this divisional application, to reference the parent application, to amend the specification on page 10 in a manner directly corresponding to that desired and accepted by the Examiner in the parent application and to limit the claims to the divisional subject matter. Following entry of this Preliminary Amendment, examination of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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